

\*John K. Veroneau, of Virginia, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative, with the Rank of Ambassador.

\*Robert K. Steel, of Connecticut, to be an Under Secretary of the Department of the Treasury.

By Mr. CRAIG for the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

\*Robert T. Howard, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Information and Technology).

\*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. FRIST:

S. 3946. A bill to make an alien who is a member of a criminal gang removable from the United States and inadmissible to the United States, to permit the Secretary of Homeland Security to deny a visa to an alien who is a national of a country that has denied or delayed accepting an alien removed from the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FRIST:

S. 3947. A bill to permit the Secretary of Homeland Security to grant citizenship to an alien who serves on active duty in the Armed Forces, to assist such an alien in applying for citizenship, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FRIST:

S. 3948. A bill to amend chapter 27 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the unauthorized construction, financing, or, with reckless disregard, permitting the construction or use on one's land, of a tunnel or subterranean passageway between the United States and another country; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FRIST:

S. 3949. A bill to study the geographic areas in Mexico from which illegal immigrants are entering the United States and to develop plans to address the social, political, and economic conditions that are contributing to such illegal immigration; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. KERRY):

S. 3950. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for qualified equity investments in certain small businesses; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SMITH (for himself, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. 3951. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to increase the retirement security of women and small business owners, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Mr. SMITH):

S. 3952. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employees not covered by qualified retirement plans to save for retirement through automatic payroll deposit IRAs, to facilitate similar savings by

the self-employed, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 3953. A bill to foster development of minority-owned small businesses; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 3954. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require monthly reporting regarding the number of individuals who have fallen into the part D donut hole and the amount such individuals are spending on covered part D drugs while in the donut hole; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. SMITH, Mr. AKAKA, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CHAFEE, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3955. A bill to provide benefits to domestic partners of Federal employees; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. DEWINE:

S. 3956. A bill to create a grant program for collaboration programs that ensure coordination among criminal justice agencies, adult protective service agencies, victim assistance programs, and other agencies or organizations providing services to individuals with disabilities in the investigation and response to abuse of or crimes committed against such individuals; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 3957. A bill to protect freedom of speech exercisable by houses of worship or meditation and affiliated organizations; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. KENNEDY, and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 3958. A bill to establish the United States Public Service Academy; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. ALLEN):

S. 3959. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income certain combat zone compensation of civilian employees of the United States; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 3960. A bill to provide for the competitive status for certain Internal Revenue Service employees; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. STEVENS (for himself, Mr. INOUE, Mr. LOTT, and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. 3961. A bill to provide for enhanced safety in pipeline transportation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DOMENICI (for himself and Mr. CRAIG):

S. 3962. A bill to enhance the management and disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste, to assure protection of public health and safety, to ensure the territorial integrity and security of the repository at Yucca Mountain, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself and Mr. KERRY):

S. Res. 588. A resolution to express the sense of the Senate that States should have in place backup systems to deal with any failure of electronic voting equipment during the November 7, 2006, general election; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. TALENT, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BURNS, Mr. BOND, Mr. ENZI, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. Con. Res. 119. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that public policy should continue to protect and strengthen the ability of farmers and ranchers to join together in cooperative self-help efforts; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. Con. Res. 120. A concurrent resolution expressing the support of Congress for the creation of a National Hurricane Museum and Science Center in southwest Louisiana; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 304

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 304, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit certain interstate conduct relating to exotic animals.

S. 408

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 408, a bill to provide for programs and activities with respect to the prevention of underage drinking.

S. 440

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 440, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to include podiatrists as physicians for purposes of covering physicians services under the medicaid program.

S. 1085

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1085, a bill to provide for paid sick leave to ensure that Americans can address their own health needs and the health needs of their families.

S. 1508

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1508, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1508, *supra*.

S. 1740

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1740, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals to defer recognition of reinvested